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DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL ADMINISTRATION
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR KING COUNTY

In re the Marriage of:

NATASHA RENEE HOWARD,

Petitioner,

and

JACQUELINE RENEE HOWARD,

Respondent.

No. 19-3-05998-6 SEA

DECLARATION OF
NATASHA RENEE HOWARD

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

I am Natasha Howard, the Petitioner in this action. I have firsthand knowledge of the information in this declaration, and I am competent to testify.

I am married to Jacqueline Renee Howard [hereinafter Jackyy]. We met in August, 2016, and we married on March 10, 2017. We separated on July 2, when Jackyy left for North Carolina to have some time away.

REQUESTS IN THIS MOTION. I am requesting this emergency restraining order due to the fact that Jackyy has been posting extreme and false claims about me on social media in an attempt to tarnish my reputation and destroy my career. I have also learned that in the

1 last ten months, she has removed nearly \$600,000 of my earnings into an account in her
2 name only. I was left with no money, and I had to borrow funds for groceries.

3 In my motion, I am asking this court to restrain her from posting anything on social
4 media about me – be it directly about me by name or indirectly about me through my family
5 or otherwise. I am also asking the court to put a freeze on Jackyy's [REDACTED] account that
6 ends in [REDACTED] and any other accounts she has, so that the funds she took are preserved.

7 RELEVANT FACTUAL BACKGROUND. I am twenty-seven years old, and I am a
8 professional basketball player. Currently, I play for the Seattle Storm of the WNBA. In the
9 winter, I travel overseas to play basketball professionally in other countries. Since 2016, I
10 have played in South Korea, China, and Russia. It is very hard to live in countries where I do
11 not speak the language nor know the culture. It is also physically hard to play basketball
12 year-round with little rest. However, because the financial opportunities overseas are so
13 great, most women players make the decision to endure the hardships in exchange for
14 making and saving money.

15
16 When I met Jackyy in 2016, I was excited at the thought of her joining me in South
17 Korea when I went to play in the winter. I thought it would make the time away far easier if
18 we were there together. It was early in our relationship and I would be paying for
19 everything, but I thought that it was worth it to have someone who (I believed) cared for me
20 and loved me. I refused to acknowledge the many red flags.

21 From the beginning, Jackyy sought to control who I talked with and who I saw. At
22 times, she insisted that she keep my phone to ensure that I not talk with anyone unless she
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1 was present. And, from just about the beginning, she insisted her name be on every bank
2 account that I had.

3 In 2016, Jackyy came to spend time with me in South Korea while I was playing
4 professional basketball there. At one point while there, she became upset with me. She was
5 out of control, and she stabbed me in the back with a knife. When she realized what she had
6 done, she showed immediate remorse, and she picked up the phone to call 911. I told her
7 that because we were in South Korea and did not speak the language, she should not do
8 that. Instead, I told her to call the translator. She called the translator, who came to the
9 apartment with the trainers. When they saw me and the extent of the injury, they
10 immediately took me to the hospital. I was in the hospital for at least several days. They
11 inserted a tube in my left side as a drain, and that remained the entire time I was in the
12 hospital. (I believe I was there for a week, but I do not want to risk overstating how long I
13 was there.)
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15 I have not had the time to get the medical records from South Korea, as all of this has
16 intensified over the weekend. I can get my medical records if this becomes a point of
17 dispute. Though I was not truthful about what had happened at the time (because I wanted
18 to protect Jackyy and also preserve our relationship), the records are clear.

19 On Twitter, Jackyy has accused me of stabbing her. This has shown up in newspaper
20 articles and other publications. Jackyy has provided nothing to support her claim. That is
21 because it is absolutely false. I have never used any knife or scissors or any sharp object of
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1 any kind to hurt Jackyy (or anyone) ever. It is Jackyy who stabbed me and caused me serious
2 harm. In fact, after this my team in South Korea insisted that Jackyy leave the country.

3 Though I was hospitalized from Jackyy stabbing me in 2016, I stayed with Jackyy and I
4 married her in the spring of 2017. Things did not get better. In fact, in the following years
5 when I played basketball in China and Russia, Jackyy created significant problems again.

6 When I was playing in China, Jackyy had repeated outbursts and abusive
7 behavior toward me. Jackyy continued her outbursts and problematic behavior in China.
8 She did this in front of my teammates and coaches. While in China, she caused an incredible
9 scene at the airport. She was demanding I give her my phone, and I did not want to give it to
10 her. She had her own phone, and I wanted to keep mine. Her behavior escalated, and the
11 police were aware of what was occurring. I had my Mom on the phone, and my Mom finally
12 told me to just give her the phone.
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14 To be very clear: the dispute was because I would not give Jackyy my phone. This is
15 not a situation where I was trying to keep her phone. She had her phone. She was
16 demanding I give her my phone, and she was not happy that I was not complying.

17 Jackyy broke doors in my apartment in Russia. Over the past few days, Jackyy
18 posted a video on Twitter that showed two doors that had been damaged in my apartment
19 in Russia. In the video, she is yelling at me and accusing me of being abusive and of breaking
20 the doors. This is absolutely false.

21 Nearly every day while she was in Russia with me, she insisted I leave my phone at
22 the apartment when I left for basketball practice. I usually left it. On the day she broke the
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1 doors, I had taken my phone with me. Jackyy was furious, and she did the damage to the
2 apartment. The damage there was caused by her. I did not cause that damage. She posted
3 the video on Twitter and included tweets insinuating I broke the doors, and I perpetrated
4 acts of violence against her. That is false.

5 Jackyy did not like me to talk with other people or have any contact with other
6 people. When we were in China and Russia, Jackyy wanted my phone because she wanted
7 to monitor who I talked with at all times. She did this in the U.S., too. When the media
8 talked with me after games, she wanted to be right next to me to hear what I said. (This was
9 not the normal protocol.)

10
11 Jackyy insisted that I cancel my Instagram account even though she has a near-
12 constant presence on social media. As a professional athlete, it is common to have an
13 Instagram account. I had one, and I had a lot of followers. I was also able to keep in touch
14 with former teammates and friends, and I could follow them, too. I canceled my Instagram
15 about a year ago because Jackyy didn't like that I had contact with other women, or that
16 they had contact with me. She was very jealous, and she would berate me as well as
17 physically assault me throughout our marriage.

18 Jackyy routinely demanded a divorce, and then talked about plans for the future.
19 She was always very focused on social media, and she liked posting photos or short videos of
20 us together. Jackyy once stated that it would be great if we had a reality show, and people
21 could watch how we lived our lives. I was not interested in a reality show.
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1 Until a few days ago, I had a Twitter account. After Jackyy hacked into it and tweeted
2 from my account without my permission, I closed it. I had to reach out to people I trusted
3 and tell them what had been going on in my life. This was very hard for me to do, but I had
4 no choice. I told them that Jackyy had hacked my account, and they helped me to shut it
5 down. Two different times on July 14, Jackyy accessed my account and "re-opened" it. I was
6 finally able to shut it down for good.

7 During this same time, Jackyy was intensifying her Twitter campaign in which she
8 made false allegations against me. All of this happened when I refused to respond to her
9 text messages on July 11 and 12th. In those messages, she suggests I send out a tweet
10 stating that I have been abusive of her, and stating that I support her strength and bravery
11 for sharing this publicly. She suggested that by doing this, people would be supportive if we
12 got back together. She claims that "Mom" agrees this is a good plan. (Please see copies of
13 text messages attached at EXHIBIT A.) I did not respond to any of her texts, and this clearly
14 upset her. In the span of the few messages, she goes from being loving and supportive to
15 being accusatory and ugly and accusing me of taking *her* money. It was after this series of
16 messages that she took her attack to the next level.

17 As a result of Jackyy's false claims of abuse, there have been articles in the Seattle
18 Times, the Washington Post, and other papers. These "abuse allegations" have been
19 mentioned on ESPN and other national sites. On social media, there are questions about
20 whether my team should let me continue to play. Some are calling for me to be suspended
21 or fired. Her false attacks could have real, lasting consequences. They need to be stopped.
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1 Jackyy has not worked at all during our relationship. She offered to take care of
2 paying the bills, and she wanted to have her name on all accounts with me. I was happy to
3 do that because I trusted and loved her. Others told me that I should not allow her to have
4 her name on all accounts, but I did not listen to them. Jackyy had at least one account that
5 was in her name only. This account (and all of my accounts – that became joint accounts)
6 was at Wells Fargo.

7 Unbeknownst to me, Jackyy began transferring funds from our joint account to the
8 Wells Fargo account in her name only. All of these funds were earned by me. This was not
9 her money to take, but she took it.

10
11 Though she had already left the family home and was already spewing ugly
12 accusations about me on Twitter, she took from our account my entire recent paycheck. She
13 even grabbed a final \$58.00 from the account on July 12. Apparently, the \$3,800 transfer
14 that same day hadn't gotten everything.

15 Jackyy left me with no funds for groceries or routine expenses. I have had to borrow
16 money to simply have food to eat.

17 On Saturday, July 13, 2019, Jackyy came to what had been our apartment. She
18 showed up unannounced. This was in the midst of all of her ugly twitter accusations against
19 me. I was not at the apartment at the time, as I had left to go get a new phone number. My
20 Mom was the only one in the apartment. Jackyy said she wanted to get her things, and she
21 would be back that evening. I was very concerned about her being in the apartment, and I
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1 was worried she would seek to initiate a fight. I reached out to the Security contact for the
2 Seattle Storm. I also talked with my attorney.


3 When Jackyy showed up later that evening, I called the police to ask them to come to
4 the apartment to be present while she was there. I had already called the police several
5 times that day. Three officers came to the apartment. On Twitter, Jackyy created the false
6 impression that three police officers were at the apartment due to the danger I posed. That
7 is not the case at all. I am the one who contacted them, as I did not feel safe having her in
8 the apartment without a civil standby present.

9
10 My goal with this declaration is to provide sufficient information to achieve the
11 following:

- 12 1. Issuance of an immediate restraining order (and then the longer restraining
13 order at the next hearing);
- 14 2. Absolute restraint on Jackyy's use of social media to disparage me, undermine
15 me, or mention me in any way either directly or indirectly;
- 16 3. A hold on [REDACTED] account ending in the four digits [REDACTED] to ensure that those
17 funds do not disappear, and a restraint on Jackyy's spending of any money
18 beyond a very modest amount until she produces proof that the funds are intact.

19 I ask the court to grant the relief that I have requested.

20 Dated this 15 day of July 2019 at Seattle, Washington.

21
22 
23 Natasha Howard